(e) whether there is any under standing between his Ministry and SCICI in this regard; and

(f) whether it is a fact that SCICI has suggested to his Ministry to abandon the deep-sea fishing indus try?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. However, there is a separate section in the Ministry to deal with matters relating to SCICI as the agency for financing & rehabilitating the deep sea fishing units.

(d) As soon as a representation is received from an entrepreneur about problems being faced by a unit, decision regarding the same is taken expeditiously in the Ministry and in consultation with SCICI/Ministry of Finance, wherever necesary.

(e) Shipping Credit and Invest ment Company of India Limited has been functioning as the agency of the Government of India for financing & rehabilitating the deep sea fishing units assisted by the erstwhile Shipping Development Fund Committee.

(f) No, Sir.

Discard of Shrimp by-catch by East Coast Trawlers

1740. SHRI MENTAY PADMANA-BHAM: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES - be pleased to state:

(a) whether a FAO study has estimated that the shrimp by-catch dis carded by East Coast Trawlers into the Bay of Bengal every year totals nearly 1,20;000 tons;

(b.) whether Government have made any plans to utilise this by-catch;

(c) whether there is any proposal to transport such by-catch to urban centres in inland areas; and

(d) whether purchase of this by-catch to asisst the sick units is being contemplated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Yes, Sir.

! (b) and (c) Utilisation of by-catch from shrimp trawlers requires study im commercial viability of undertaking such a project. At present their are no plans to take up a project in order to utilise and transport such by-catch to urban areas.

(d) Yes, Sir.

National Policy on Food Processing

1741. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA; Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the national policy on Food Processing has not yet been finalised;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether discussions with all concerned have finished;

(d) by when the policy is likely to be announced; and

(e) what is the likely emphasis of the policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI). (a) to (e) Action has been initiated for formulating a policy on Food Processing. The policy will address issues relating to acclera-ted growth and development of Food Processing Industries with a view to augment employment opportunities and incomes, both in rural and urban